

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176991

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ORIGIN OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 /029 R

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APPROVED BY EB/IFD OIA:RJSMITH
EB/IFD/OIA:DHSTEBBING

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P 162231Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 176991

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EFIN

SUBJECT: AGRIBUSINESS

FOR MCCALLUM OPIC TDY OFFICER

1. MARSHALL MAYS, OPIC PRESIDENT, HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOW-
ING TELEX FROM HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR.:

QUOTE FOLLOWING OUR MEETING FOR WHICH I RENEW MY THANKS I
FEAR A MISUNDERSTANDING TOOK PLACE. IN FACT I UNDERSTOOD
AND TOOK FOR GRANTED THAT A GROUP OF TECHNICIANS WAS COMING
FROM THE USA TO DISCUSS FEED-LOT PROJECT WITH BDET AND
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. NO NEWS OF THE ARRIVAL OF THESE
GENTLEMEN SINCE THEN. SHOULD THIS GROUP BE DELAYED A BDET
WORKING TEAM WITH FULL POWER DELEGATION FROM MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE IS READY TO LEAVE TUNIS FOR THE USA BY THE END
OF JULY. VERY SINCERELY YOURS. END QUOTE

2. OPIC TELEX REPLY, FROM GRAHAM WILLIAMS, IS:

QUOTE BECAUSE MARSHALL MAYS IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY I HAVE NOT
BEEN ABLE TO UNCOVER BASIS FOR MISUNDERSTANDINGS REFERRED TO
IN YOUR TELEX. ROBERT LONG, U.S. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 176991

AGRICULTURE, IS ALSO AWAY AND CONSEQUENTLY CANNOT GET

GUIDANCE FROM HIM. NO ONE ELSE AT OPIC SEEMS TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A GROUP OF TECHNICIANS GOING TO TUNISIA TO DISCUSS FEEDLOT PROJECT. HOWEVER, U.S. AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL PRESIDENT KENNETH MUELLER AND OPIC DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT PHILIP MCCALLUM ARRIVE TUNIS TUESDAY JULY 20 TO DISCUSS WITH MINISTER BELKHODJA AND OTHERS POSSIBILITY OF JOINT EFFORTS IN AGRIBUSINESS PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. MCCALLUM PLANS TO CALL ON YOU AND I SUGGEST YOU RAISE FEEDLOT MATTER WITH HIM. I UNDERSTAND THAT AID ADMINIS-TRATOR DANIEL PARKER HAS RECEIVED SIMILAR INQUIRY FROM YOU AND HE WILL RESPOND DIRECTLY. REGARDS. END QUOTE

3. FROM AID OPIC UNDERSTANDS THAT AID RURAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM MAY BE GROUP BOURGUIBA TALKING ABOUT, BECAUSE HE EMPHASIZED IN MEETING WITH AID WASHINGTON OFFICIALS THAT HIS PROJECT HAS SUBSTANTIAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACT.

4. OPIC SUGGESTS MCCALLUM DISCUSS PROJECT WITH BOURGUIBA AND IN CONSULTATION WITH EMBASSY/MISSION DECIDE WHAT FURTHER ACTION, IF ANY, USG SHOULD TAKE AND, IF ANY, BY WHICH AGENCY. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRIBUSINESS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE176991
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: F GWILLIAMS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760275-0861
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760749/aaaabqmt.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OPIC
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2005 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGRIBUSINESS FOR MCCALLUM OPIC TDY OFFICER
TAGS: EFIN, TS
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006